MR. CHAIRMAN: Briefly.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, there are tonnes of handloom fabrics lying in godowns and they are not lifted because of obsolete technology and obsolete design planning. Nothing is being done for these handloom weavers. Would you consider making these units export-oriented units? Would you take up the recommendations of the Petitions Committee? ...*(Interruptions)*... The Petitions Committee received a petition whereby a survey was done all over India. Certain recommendations were made by that Committee. It is mandatory for the Government to take up these recommendations.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, I have not gone through the report of the Petitions Committee. I will go through that report of the Petitions Committee.

Secondly, for protecting the handloom sector, the Government is giving a lot of encouragement. Unfortunately, the State Governments are not coming forward to use it to the fullest extent. We would request all the State Governments to see that the money allotted to them is fully utilised.

Thirdly, we have also got designing centres. We have recently appointed 13 to 14 designers whom we are sending to each State to study the local requirements and prepare local designs, fashion technology and all that. Sir, keeping in view the exports available to us, we will try to improve this sector. I would request the concerned State also to co- operate with us to see that whatever amounts are available with the Government of India are utilised by the States to develop this industry and also to see that the men who are engaged in this sector get a better deal. We will do our best.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What about the identity cards?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Identity cards are done by the State Governments.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Sir, this is an industry in which thousands of young unemployed youths and women can be employed. I would like to ask of the respected Minister, through you, Sir, as to how many new employment opportunities have been planned in this industry for this year and how much amount has been allocated for that. What are the new employment opportunities which you are going to create in the handloom sector?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, for new entrants we are giving an encouragement of Rs. 2,000 for purchase of new developed handlooms and we are trying to strengthen the co-operatives. Whatever help we are extending to this sector that would be through the State Governments and through these co-operatives. Unfortunately, in the country it is only 23 per cent of the weavers who are covered by these cooperatives. As most of the hon. Members know, most of these cooperatives are not functioning properly. So, our duty is to see to it and we will try to strengthen these cooperatives and whatever amount is spent, that is properly utilised by them. As far as development is concerned, after seven or eight years, it will be a free market where only the fittest can survive. So, keeping all that in view, we will try to strengthen this sector.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: How many employment opportunities have they planned to give this year through handloom sector?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: That depends upon the State Government's capacity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we go to the next question? Question No. 205.

बिहार में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की खराब स्थिति

*205. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) बिहार से होकर गुजरने वाले राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के नाम क्या हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इन राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की मरम्मत के अभाव में उनकी स्थिति अत्यन्त खराब हो गयी है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) सरकार इन राजमार्गों की मरम्मत हेतु कौन-कौन से उपाय करने का विचार रखती है और कितने नये राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की घोषणा किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha

Statement

(a) The National Highways passing through Bihar are as under:

NH No.	Name of NHs
2	Delhi-Calcutta
6	Calcutta-Dhule
19	Ghazipur-Patna
23	Chas-Talchar
28	Lucknow-Barauni
28-A	Piprakoti-Raxaul
30	Mohania-Bakhtiyarpur
31	Barhi-Guwahati
32	Gobindpur-Jamshedpur
33	Bari-Bharagora

(b) and (c) The National Highways, passing through Bihar, are generally being maintained in traffic worthy condition within available resources.

(d) Repairs to National Highways is a continuous process and ordinary repairs, periodic renewals and restoration of monsoon damages are taken up, as and when necessary.

श्री नागमणि: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि पूरे भारत में विगत तीन वर्ष से कितने किलोमीटर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का निर्माण हुआ है और विगत 20 वर्षों में एक भी किलोमीटर बिहार में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का निर्माण क्यों नहीं हुआ है? बिहार के साथ अन्याय क्यों हुआ है यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, the Eighth Plan provides for sanction of work costing to about Rs. 229 crores for development of National Highways in the State of Bihar which includes four laning of about 43 kms. in the NH-2 in the region which is adjacent to the West Bengal border. Work amounting to Rs. 185 crores has already been sanctioned by the end of 1995-96 and it includes four laning of NH-2 costing to Rs. 128 crores which is presently at a tender stage and will be executed by the National Highway Authority of India. About 1996-97, Annual Plan provides for sanction of development works costing to about Rs. 29 crores. The list of works of more than Rs. 2 crores is presently in progress. Allocations for development of national works during previous year in the Eighth Plan were: 1992-93— Rs. 13.5 crores; 1993-94 — Rs. 19.20 crores; 1994-95 ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: He can place it on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Hon. Member specifically wanted to know about the amounts and the plans. ...*(Interruptions)*... He wanted to know about the amounts spent ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री नागमणि: महोदय, यह स्पष्ट क्वेश्चन है कि पूरे भारतवर्ष में विगत तीन वर्षों में कितने किलोमीटर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग का निर्माण हुआ साथ ही साथ विगत 20 वर्षों में बिहार में एक किलोमीटर भी सड़क का निर्माण नहीं हुआ, यह क्यों नहीं हुआ, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Regarding the general question, I must take note of. And regarding development of National Highways in Bihar, I have already listed here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reasons why even not one kilometre has been added ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, it is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have read out the list. ...*(Interruptions)*... It has been added. Generally I cannot say as to how many kilometres have been added to highways in Bihar. That I cannot say now. ...*(Interruptions)*... With regard to Bihar all these things are listed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश यादव: श्री नागमणि जी ने यह पूछा है कि कितने राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की घोषणा का प्रस्ताव है। यह तो आलरेडी प्रश्न में पूछा गया है। श्रीमान् इसलिए हमें इसका स्पष्ट उत्तर चाहिए कि क्यों नहीं पिछले 20 वर्षों में एक भी इन्च राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग का विस्तार बिहार में हुआ और क्या इस तरह का कोई प्रस्ताव है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is part of the original question. He wants to know the number of new national hgihways proposed to be declared in Bihar.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: I have read it out. I have read the details of the national highways. He has not followed it. It includes the national highways to be granted. With regard to the other question I cannot say because it is a roving question which I cannot answer. Specifically he has asked about Bihar. I have listed out all the works that are carried out.

श्री नागमणि: मेरा प्रश्न यह था और मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता था कि बिहार के साथ जो अन्याय हुआ है यह बहुत गलत हुआ है। मेरा दूसरा सप्लेमेंटरी है कि राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग 28 से 31 को दरभंगा से फारबिसगंज राजमार्ग से जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव जो विभाग के पास लम्बित है, सरकार क्या उस पर विचार कर रही है और क्या सरकार इसको जोड़ने का विचार रखती है?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, there is no step-motherly attitude towards Bihar. Also on NH 419, 120 kilometres work is being taken up. *(Interruptions)* Either you talk or you allow me to talk. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I cannot answer like this.

श्री नागमणि: मेरा सवाल साफ है, आप जवाब गलत दे रहे हैं। मेरा साफ प्रश्न था कि 20 साल में बिहार में एक इंच भी राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग नहीं बनाया गया है। आप बोल रहे हैं बिहार में है। बिहार के साथ अन्याय हो रहा है और सरकार का ध्यान बिहार की तरफ नहीं है। मेरा प्रश्न सीधा है, इसका आप जवाब दें।

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: You have not followed my answer, I think. I will read it out again for the information of my friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In your answer you have only enumerated the national highways passing through Bihar. But they want to know if any more new highways have been added in Bihar.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Yes, 43 kilometres have been added. On NH- 2, 43 kilometres have been taken up. Therefore, as he says it is not one kilometre; and the works to be taken up also I have listed out. Then where is the question of disparity?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Dr. Jagannath Mishra.

डा. जगन्नाथ मिश्र: मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है, प्रश्न और उत्तर का कोई तालमेल नहीं बैठ रहा है। गहन रूप से आप देखें कि मंत्री महोदय का उत्तर प्रश्नकर्ता के प्रश्न का स्पष्ट उत्तर नहीं है। माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है कि बिहार में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की स्थिति क्या है, वह सेवा योग्य है या नहीं। उन्होंने कह दिया कि वह योग्य है। हम मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहते हैं कि क्या पिछले वर्षों में दस राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग जो बिहार से होकर गुजरते हैं, उनके रख-रखाव में भारत सरकार की तरफ से कितनी धनराशि की व्यवस्था की गई है? इसके लिए जो धनराशि आबंटित की गई है क्या राज्य सरकार ने उसका प्रयोग किया?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, the national highways passing through Bihar are generally being maintained, the traffic-worthy condition, within the available resources. The national highways are a continuous process. We have to attend to the periodical repairs when damages are caused by monsoons. It is being taken up as an when necessary.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Sir, Question Hour is over. Sir, declare that the Question Hour is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pilgrims performing Haj

*206. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pilgrims performed Haj under arrangements made by the Haj Committee during 1996;

(b) the total amount collected from the pilgrims for accommodation and air freight; and

(c) the actual amount spent for procuring accommodation at Mecca and Madina during 1996, and chartering the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) 50,346 Indian pilgrims performed Haj under arrangements made by the Haj Committee during Haj 1996.

(b) An amount equivalent to Saudi Riyal (SR) 1435 in Indian rupees was collected from each pilgrim on account of accommodation charges in two stages, viz., as advance towards partially meeting the expenditure on